



## SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES

### 2007 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

Note: Meeting dates and times are revised as information becomes available at  
<http://www.1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Default.htm>



DATE: June 6, 2007

TO: Washington State Senators and Other Interested Persons

FROM: Richard Rodger, Director (786-7401)  
Senate Committee Services

SUBJECT: Senate Committee Services 2007 Interim Work Plan and Activities

We are pleased to provide this 2007 Interim Work Plan and Activities for your reference in the months preceding the 2008 Legislative Session. The Facilities & Operations Committee approved the work plan on June 5, 2007.

The interim work plan is a public planning document containing the major issues that each committee currently plans to consider during the next legislative session. It is used to guide staff in conducting research over the interim and in planning related interim committee activities and hearings. In addition to the items included in this work plan, Senate Committee Staff also respond to the other projects, issues, and research requests of each member of the Senate. In that light, we trust you will find this work plan useful in monitoring the committee's work during the interim.

If you have other requests or questions, or need assistance on any issue, please don't hesitate to call on us.

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# Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee

## Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7411*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
Fall	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Yakima/Prosser	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Central Washington State Fair facilities tour.</li> <li>2. Opportunities Industrialization Center tour.</li> <li>3. Washington State University Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center at Prosser tour.</li> <li>4. International marketing or bio-fuels briefing.</li> </ol>
July	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Puyallup	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Washington State University Research and Extension Center.</li> <li>2. Pierce Conservation District activities.</li> <li>3. Organic dairy and egg farm tour.</li> </ol>
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee  Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Certified weed seed free forage.</li> <li>2. Washington Certified Beef Program.</li> </ol>
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee  Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Department of Agriculture legislative proposals.</li> <li>2. Update on "Future of Farming Evaluation."</li> </ol>

## Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7458*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Public Hearing/Work Session		
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
TBA	Full Committee	TBA	Tour of affordable housing. Tour
05/21/07	Homeowners Association Act Committee	Kent Centennial Center	TBA
11:00	Work Session		
06/04/07	Homeowners Association Act Committee	Kent Centennial Center	TBA
11:00	Work Session		
06/13/07	Affordable Housing Adivsory Board	Radisson Hotel Sea Tac	TBA
10:00	Work Session		
06/18/07	Homeowners Association Act Committee	Kent Centennial Center	TBA
11:00	Work Session		
07/09/07	Homeowners Association Act Committee	Kent Centennial Center	TBA
11:00	Work Session		
07/23/07	Homeowners Association Act Committee	Kent Centennial Center	TBA
11:00	Work Session		

## Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7458*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
08/06/07	Homeowners Act Committee	Kent Centennial Center	TBA
11:00	Work Session		
08/20/07	Homeowners Association Act Committee	Kent Centennial Center	TBA
11:00	Work Session		
09/19/07	Affordable Housing Advisory Board	Radisson Hotel Sea Tac	TBA
10:00	Work Session		
11/14/07	Affordable Housing Advisory Board	Radisson Hotel Sea Tac	TBA
10:00	Work Session		
12/12/07	Affordable Housing Advisory Board	Radisson Hotel Sea Tac	TBA
10:00	Work Session		

## Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7409*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/18-19/07	With the Joint Legislative Committee on Economic Development & Trade Committee Work Session	Vancouver, BC	Regional Economic Development issues.
TBA	Full Committee Tour	Kitsap County	Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) project.
TBA	Full Committee Tour	Seattle	South Lake Union Development and Commercialization of Health Sciences research.
06/14/07	Joint with House Community & Economic Development & Trade	Tacoma Convention Center, Rm 318	TBA (Association of WA Cities Annual Conference).
10:00 am	Work Session		
August	Full Committee Tour and Public Hearings	Tri-Cities and Walla Walla	1. Collaborative research and commercialization. 2. Workforce training and economic development. 3. Assisting exporters in rural Washington.
TBA	Full Committee Tour	Spokane	Tour of Spokane Intercollegiate Research & Technology Initiative (SIRTI) and WSU shock physics lab.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee  Public Hearing	Olympia	1. Implementation of microenterprise legislation. 2. Implementation of innovation partnership/research "stars" legislation.
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee  Public Hearing	Olympia	TBA

## Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7420*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
Monthly Meetings	Full Committee  Work Session	Olympia	The committee will hold informal work sessions on the second Wednesday of every month during the interim to receive updates on the study being conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy. Staff will organize and provide staff support for the sessions and draft legislation as necessary.
June Half Day	Joint with House Committee on Early Learning and Children's Services  Tour	Seattle	The committee will visit the University of Washington's Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences in Seattle to learn about advances in research on brain development and how children learn, and what difference pre-kindergarten can make in children's learning in the short and long run. Committee staff will provide background information for committee members prior to the site visit.
06/25/07 All Day	Full Committee  TBA	Spokane	1. Site visit at the ESD 101. 2. Discussion about remediation and alternative education programs with East Valley, West Valley and Central Valley school district superintendents.
August	Full Committee  Work Session	Olympia	Home visitation programs to improve educational outcomes.
September Committee Assembly	Full Committee  Work Session	Vancouver	1. Update by the Washington Institute for Public Policy on options to augment the current system of statewide student assessments. 2. Update by the Washington Institute for Public Policy on the progress of the Basic Education funding task force. 3. Update by the Department of Early Learning on the development of the Quality Rating and Improvement System for early learning facilities.
Fall	Full Committee  Work Session	TBA	Visit to a Thrive By Five demonstration community and early learning improvement efforts linked to Thrive By Five.
October	Full Committee  TBA	Yakima	Student remediation activities and programs.
November	Full Committee  TBA	Moses Lake	Student remediation activities and programs.

## Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7408*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	1. Review of subprime lending. 2. New technologies: Radio Frequency Identification.
	Work Session		
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	1. Exploration of the issue of delegation of authority to National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) [reference SB 5717/2007 Section 7(b)(5)].
	Work Session		2. Accreditation by the NAIC entails and its significance to Washington. 3. Follow-up to SB 1032/2005, which approved Washington's participation in the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission (IIPRC) interstate compact. 4. An overview of disaster insurance in Washington.

## Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7432*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
7/12/07 - 1st of two, 2-hour Public Work Sessions	Full Committee	Kirkland	Election Law Review: 1. Pre-scanning absentee ballots upon receipt and safeguards that exist to prevent early disclosure of election results.
	Work Session		2. The assignment of unique identifiers to ballots and secrecy concerns. 3. Audit processes for ballots (including putting ballots in public domain). 4. Absentee ballot secrecy and coercion issues. 5. Scanning and storing electronic copies of ballots.
8/9/07 - 2nd of two, 2-hour Public Work Sessions	Full Committee	Olympia	Election Law Review: 1. Pre-scanning absentee ballots upon receipt and safeguards that exist to prevent early disclosure of election results.
	Work Session		2. The assignment of unique identifiers to ballots and secrecy concerns. 3. Audit processes for ballots (including putting ballots in public domain). 4. Absentee ballot secrecy and coercion issues. 5. Scanning and storing electronic copies of ballots.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
TBA	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs	TBA	Tour of Washington soldiers' homes.
	Tour		
September Legislative Assembly	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs	TBA	TBA
	TBA		

## Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7432*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
November 2007	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs Public Hearing	Eastern Washington	This meeting will be held in Eastern Washington and will coincide with the dedication of the Eastern Washington Veterans' Cemetery.
November Legislative Assembly	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs TBA	TBA	TBA

## Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7456*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	TBA	TBA
	Work Session		
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	TBA	TBA
	Work Session		

### Other Meetings:

TBA	Joint Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force	TBA	Eight work sessions to discuss public concerns about long-term care will be scheduled throughout the interim. Available information can be found on the Governor's website: <a href="http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/">http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/</a>
	Work Session		
TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform	TBA	Four work sessions to discuss conditions in school environments that impact childrens' health to be scheduled throughout the interim.
	Work Session		
TBA	Joint Legislative Workgroup on "Fair Share" and Health Care for Low-Wage Employees	TBA	Two work sessions to be scheduled throughout the interim.
	Work Session		

## Senate Higher Education Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7415*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/14/07	Joint with House Higher Education Committee	Seattle	Symposium on accountability and performance agreements.
TBA	Work Session		
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	TBA	Preliminary report on Higher Education Coordinating Board's master plan draft.
	Public Hearing/Work Session		
October	Joint with House Higher Education Committee	Yakima	Educating more people to higher levels.
	Work Session		
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	TBA	Report from the Committee on the education of students in high demand fields.
	Public Hearing/Work Session		
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
July	Committee on the Education of Students in High Demand Fields	Pullman	Students in high demand fields as per SSB 5731.
	Work Session		
September	Committee on the Education of Students in High Demand Fields	Ellensburg	Students in high demand fields as per SSB 5731.
	Work Session		
November	Committee on the Education of Students in High Demand Fields	Seattle	Students in high demand fields as per SSB 5731.
	Work Session		

## Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7414*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
November Legislative Assmbly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
TBA	Child Support Guidelines Work Group	TBA	TBA
TBA	Community Custody and Community Supervision Task Force	TBA	TBA
TBA	Foster Parent Classification Work Group	TBA	TBA
TBA	Marital Dissolution Task Force	TBA	TBA
	TBA		

## Senate Judiciary Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7455*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
05/09/07	Tribal Law Enforcement	Tukwila	Issues related to tribal law enforcement.
10:00	Work Session		
June	Provision of court services in courts of limited jurisdiction  Work Session	Kent	Court services in courts of limited jurisdiction; consideration of operations and efficiencies of courts of limited jurisdiction through reorganization or regionalization.
06/05/07	Tribal Law Enforcement	Tukwila	Issues related to tribal law enforcement.
10:00	Work Session		
06/08/07	Sentencing Guidelines Commission	SeaTac	Issues and legislation pertaining to the Sentencing Reform Act.
All Day	Work Session		
07/13/07	Tribal Law Enforcement	Tukwila	Issues related to tribal law enforcement.
10:00	Work Session		
07/13/07	Sentencing Guidelines Commission	SeaTac	Issues and legislation pertaining to the Sentencing Reform Act.
All Day	Work Session		
08/13/07	Tribal Law Enforcement	Tukwila	Issues related to tribal law enforcement.
10:00	Work Session		

**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7455*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/10/07	Tribal Law Enforcement	Tukwila	Issues related to tribal law enforcement.
10:00	Work Session		
10/10/07	Tribal Law Enforcement	Tukwila	Issues related to tribal law enforcement.
10:00	Work Session		
11/05/07	Tribal Law Enforcement	Tukwila	Issues related to tribal law enforcement.
10:00	Work Session		

# Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee

## Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Joint with House Commerce & Labor Committee  Public Hearing/Work Session	TBA	Tied house liquor issues.
TBA	Full Committee  Tour	Seattle area	Tour a beer distribution operation and a brewery.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee  Work Session	TBA	TBA
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee  Work Session	TBA	TBA

### Other Meetings:

TBA Various meetings throughout the interim	Joint Legislative Task Force on Family Leave  Public Hearing/Work Session	TBA	Family Leave. (E2SSB 5659)
TBA Various meetings throughout the interim	Joint Legislative Task Force on Underground Construction Economy  Public Hearing/Work Session	TBA	Underground economy in the construction industry (SB 5926).

## Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7419*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Possible Joint with Water, Energy & Technology  Tour/Briefing	Port Angeles & Neah Bay	Makah Bay wave energy project and oil spill response.
07/11/07  TBA	Full Committee  Tour/Briefing	Skamania County	Wind River Canopy Crane and Forest Health Briefing.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
October	Full Committee  Tour/Briefing	Aberdeen	Ocean policy update and tour.
October	Possible Joint with Water, Energy and Telecommunications  Tour/Briefing	Pend Oreille County and Mount Spokane State Park	Mount Spokane State Park tour and briefing. Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative update.
November	Full Committee  Briefing	Vancouver	Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council briefing.
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA

## Senate Transportation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7300*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
Fall 2007	TBA	Vancouver, WA	Joint meeting with Oregon State Senate Transportation Committee.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
06/14/07 1:00 - 3:00	Joint Transportation Committee	Tacoma	To be held in conjunction with the Association of Washington Cities conference.
07/19/07 1:00 - 3:00	Joint Transportation Committee	TBA	TBA
08/13/07 1:00 - 3:00	Joint Transportation Committee	TBA	TBA
09/19/07 1:00 - 3:00	Joint Transportation Committee	Olympia	TBA
10/24/07 1:00 - 3:00	Joint Transportation Committee	TBA	TBA
11/28/07 1:00 - 3:00	Joint Transportation Committee	Olympia	TBA

## Senate Water, Energy & Technology Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7406*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Possible Joint with Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Tour/Briefing	Port Angeles & Neah Bay	Oil spill response and Makah Bay wave project.
TBA	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Maury Island	Maury Island Aquatic Reserve.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA
October	Possible Joint with Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Tour/Briefing	Moses Lake & Pend Oreille County	Solar technology, water habitat, PUD hydro and telecom projects.
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
TBA	Regional Electric Transmission Task Force	TBA	TBA
TBA	Wood Smoke Reduction Work Group	TBA	TBA
August 10-11	Legislative Council on River Governance	Boise, Idaho	Four-state discussion on water issues relating to the Columbia River.

## Senate Ways & Means Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7715*

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
TBA	Joint Task Force on Basic Ed. Def. & Funding	TBA	TBA
TBA	Legislative Study on Public Infrastructure	TBA	TBA
TBA	Joint Task Force on School Construction Funding	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
TBA	Joint Task Force on Long-Term Care Residential Facility Payment Systems	TBA	TBA
	TBA		

## **Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Certification of Weed Seed Free Forage for Use on Federal Lands**

Completion Date: September 2007

Staff: Bob Lee/Sam Thompson

**Description:** The U.S. Forest Service has announced steps to reduce invasive weed species on national forest lands by requiring feed used by saddle and pack animals to be weed-free starting in January 2009. This requirement has been in place in several western states who generally have responded by developing state certification programs for weed seed free hay. Under these programs, hay growers may request inspection of their hay fields prior to cutting to assure the hay crop will not contain seeds of specified species of weeds. Hay bales from the fields that pass inspection are marked with specific colored twine or tags which then may be fed to saddle and pack animals while traversing over federal forest service lands. Further, straw used to abate soil erosion on federal lands burned by wildfires has to meet weed seed free requirements.

This project will be to: (1) show how various western states have met the weed seed free forage certification requirement; and (2) identify stakeholders to provide input at the September work session as to how this requirement could best be met in Washington State.

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**Project: Washington Certified Beef Program for Export Markets**

Completion Date: September 2007

Staff: Bob Lee

**Description:** Potential buyers of beef from Washington State have expressed concern over the inability of being assured that beef purchased from United States was not imported from Canada. The concern is that cattle that have been detected in North America as having bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) originated from Canada and that Canadian beef can be shipped into facilities in the United States for processing.

There is interest in establishing a Washington Certified Beef Program that would be able to confirm that a beef animal was born and raised in Washington State. Other states that have adopted similar laws may serve as a model. A work session that includes presentations by stakeholders to explore this topic is tentatively planned for September.

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**Project: Bee Colony Collapse Disorder**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Sam Thompson

**Description:** Colony Collapse Disorder (or CCD) is a phenomenon involving massive die-off of a beehive or bee colony. The cause (or causes) of CCD is not yet well understood. Theories include environmental change-related stresses, malnutrition, unknown pathogens, mites, pesticides, emissions from manmade devices, and genetically modified crops. Committee staff will monitor research regarding CCD and assist in drafting any legislation as directed.

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## **Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project:           Agricultural Viability Studies**

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff:** Bob Lee

**Reference:**       SSB 5108, SSB 5248 (2007)

**Description:**   Three significant studies relating to the future viability of agriculture in the state of Washington were enacted during the 2007 session. SSB 5108 created the Office of Farmland Preservation and requires a study of the amount and cause of loss of agricultural lands in Washington State and the identification of factors that are likely to cause future declines. SSB 5248 provides for the Ruckelshaus Center to examine issues relating to requirements of the Growth Management Act to protect agricultural land and critical areas and to propose recommendations to address the issue. Further, funding was provided in the budget for a "Future of Farming" evaluation.

Each of these studies will be monitored and progress reports will be provided at appropriate times to the committee members.

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## **Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Cellular Phone Service Contracts**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

Description: Cellular service providers often require consumers to enter into lengthy contracts for their services. If a consumer is unhappy with the service provider, he or she usually has to pay a penalty in order to void the contract. Staff will research current consumer protections available in these situations and how other states have addressed these concerns. This research will result in a report and possibly proposed legislation.

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**Project: Home Warranties**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Alison Mendiola

Reference: SB 5550 (2006)

Description: SB 5550 proposed home warranties for new residential construction or substantially remodeled single family homes. While this bill did not pass the legislature, several issues were raised that warrant further in-depth research including what are the liability insurance requirements for contractors in other states, what legal protection and remedies are homeowners afforded in other states and what impact, if any, this had on the insurance industry. Expected outcome: Legislation for 2008.

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**Project: Homeowners' Association Act Committee**

Completion Date: September 2007

Staff: Alison Mendiola/Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

Reference: SCR 8423 (2006)

Description: Monitor committee meetings to review the recommendations of the Homeowners' Association study group. In conjunction with the study group, among other concerns: analyze the method and manner of amending restrictive covenants; review the processes for voting and budget ramification; determine the need for alternative dispute mechanisms; and develop solutions to resolve potential conflicts between association governing documents and state statutes.

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**Project: Physicians' Relationships with Pharmaceutical Companies**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

Description: Recent media coverage has revealed that drug makers regularly give gifts or make payments to doctors. This has raised concerns that physicians may experience a conflict of interest when prescribing medication to patients. Staff will analyze existing relationships between doctors and drug makers in Washington and research other states' efforts to protect patients from these possible conflicts of interest. Staff will prepare a report summarizing research and draft legislation, if appropriate.

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## **Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Microenterprise Development**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Jack Brummel

Reference: SSB 5613, 2SSB 5652, SSB 5653 (2007)

Description: Microenterprise development refers to the process by which small-scale entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. The legislature enacted bills in 2007 providing state support for microenterprise development organizations, support for self-employment of unemployed workers, and entrepreneurial training through the Federal Workforce Investment Act. The committee will consult with agency staff implementing the legislation and examine options for coordination of programs. A committee hearing will be held to provide information to Senators.

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**Project: Export Assistance**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Jack Brummel

Reference: SSB 5829, SB 6087 (2007)

Description: Washington provides export assistance services through the Export Finance Assistance Center of Washington (EFACW), the Department of Agriculture's International Marketing Program, and the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development's International Trade Office. Ninety percent of the companies assisted by CTED are located in the Puget Sound and Spokane regions. Rural areas are far more dependent upon manufacturing than agriculture for jobs - yet, they have little experience with non-agricultural export assistance. The Senate considered legislation in 2007 that directed EFACW to develop a rural manufacturer export outreach program in collaboration with Washington Manufacturing Services and directed CTED work with local partners to expand export assistance. The Committee will examine options for improving export services in underserved areas of the state. A committee hearing will be held in Eastern Washington.

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**Project: Commercialization of Technology**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Jack Brummel

Reference: SSB 5387, SHB 1091 (2007)

Description: Commercialization is the technology transfer, product development, production process design, technical skills development and other steps leading to market entry and competitiveness of innovative technologies, processes and products. The legislature considered a number of approaches to commercialization during the 2007 session. The committee will monitor the implementation of the legislation that passed and review other state's programs that provide public support for commercialization. The committee will conduct tours and hold hearings to provide information to Senators.

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## **Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project:**           **Examining Options to Augment the Current System of Statewide Student Assessments**

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff:** Susan Mielke

**Reference:**       SSB 6618 (2006), ESSB 6023 (2007)

**Description:**   In the 2006 legislative session, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) was directed to conduct a 3-pronged study to identify the characteristics of the students who have failed to meet standard on any part of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, possible barriers to student success or possible causes of the lack of success, and additional alternative assessment options that will augment the current assessment system. In the 2007 legislative session, a conditional delay of the WASL as a graduation requirement in mathematics was created for the graduating classes of 2008 through 2012 and additional alternative assessments to the WASL were authorized. There was some legislative interest in changing the type of assessment that would be used as a graduation requirement.

The committee will hold informal work sessions on the second Wednesday of every month during the interim to receive updates on the study being conducted by the Institute. Staff will organize and provide staff support for the sessions and draft legislation as necessary.

September and November Committee Assembly: Work Session. Presentation by the Washington Institute of Public Policy to update the committee on the Institute's study.

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**Project:**           **Home Visitation Programs to Improve Educational Outcomes**

**Completion Date:** August 2007

**Staff:** Susan Mielke/Paula Moore

**Reference:**       SSB 5830 (2007)

**Description:**   The Legislature established the Washington Council on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Council) in 1982 to support effective community prevention of child abuse and neglect. Those efforts have included home visitation programs. In the 2007 session, the Council was renamed the Children's Trust of Washington and the focus of the home visitation programs was expanded to fund evidence-based and research-based home visitation programs to address the risk factors for child abuse/neglect and poor educational outcomes for children.

The committee will receive an overview of home visitation programs and hold a roundtable discussion with home visitors and parents to learn more about the programs.

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## **Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Quality Rating and Improvement System**

**Completion Date:** December 1, 2007

**Staff:** Kim Cushing/Paula Moore

**Reference:** SSB 5828, SSB 1128 (sec. 614) (2007)

**Description:** The Legislature provided \$5 million for the Department of Early Learning to develop a voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) that gives parents better information about the quality of child care and early education programs, and expands the availability of high quality early learning opportunities. The QRIS will be piloted in various locations around the state beginning in fiscal year 2009.

Committee staff will collect, review and summarize the available relevant information regarding the different methods that states are using to improve information and quality of early child care and early education programs, develop policy options, and draft legislation as needed.

Additionally, the committee will receive an update from the Department of Early Learning at the December committee assembly on the development of the QRIS, with particular attention to the component addressing early learning teacher compensation and education enhancement.

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**Project: Student Remediation Activities and Programs**

**Completion Date:** December 15, 2007

**Staff:** Susan Mielke/Kim Cushing

**Reference:** ESSB 6386 (2006 Supplemental Budget)

**Description:** Remediation of students with academic deficiencies is an issue faced by every school in our state. Studies show that students who continue to struggle in school without intervention compound their learning losses into a larger deficit that is difficult to remediate. In contrast, carefully tailored learning interventions can provide the assistance that students need to overcome many learning obstacles.

The legislature specifically funds remediation programs in Washington schools, including the Learning Assistance Program (LAP), Promoting Academic Success (PAS) program, and Initiative 728 (I-728). School districts receive LAP funds based on the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch to address the learning and instructional challenges created by poverty. Additionally, since 2006, school districts receive PAS funds based on the number of students who have been unsuccessful on one or more sections of the tenth grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning. School districts also receive funds under I-728, which may be used to provide extended learning opportunities or tutoring.

The committee will conduct a number of site visits and public hearings in school districts across the state to learn about different student remediation and assistance programs, including programs that target at-risk and out-of-school youth. Committee staff will gather and distribute background information to the committee members prior to each committee site visit. Additionally, information that is provided during the visits and public hearings will be summarized. All the information will be provided as a final report to the committee members. Committee staff will draft legislation as needed.

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## **Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Thrive By Five Demonstration Communities and Early Learning Improvement Efforts Linked to Thrive By Five**

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff:** Susan Mielke/Kim Cushing

**Reference:** 2SHB 2964 (2006); E2SSB 5841, SSB 5828 (2007)

**Description:** In 2006, the Legislature passed legislation that facilitated the creation of a private-public partnership focused on supporting improvements in early learning and assisting every child in the state to be prepared to succeed in school and in life. This was the beginning of Thrive by Five, which has created two demonstration communities to strengthen early learning in those communities. This session, the Legislature created demonstration projects for grades kindergarten through grade 3, two of them must in the school districts that have the Thrive by Five early learning demonstration projects. Additionally, the Legislature provided funding to phase-in a full day kindergarten program beginning in the state's highest poverty schools.

The committee will visit the Thrive by Five demonstration community in South King County's White Center community to learn more about the efforts of Thrive by Five, the establishment of the K-3 demonstration project in the school district, the phase-in of all-day kindergarten, and the input provided on the Quality Rating and Improvement System for early learning. Committee staff will provide background information to the committee members prior to the site visit.

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**Project: Update of Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff:** Bryon Moore/Susan Mielke/Kim Cushing

**Description:** Early Learning and K-12 Education and Ways and Means Committee staff will update the Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance. This document serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The document focuses on frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance.

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### **Other Projects:**

**Project: Brain Research and Learning Joint with House Committee on Early Learning and Children's Services**

**Completion Date:** June 2007

**Staff:** Susan Mielke

**Reference:** E2SSB 5828 (2007)

**Description:** In recent years the Washington legislature has invested in strategies to improve the quality of early learning programs, including research-based programs. Research is providing more information to understand about how a child's brain forms and develops.

The committee will visit the University of Washington's Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences in Seattle to learn about advances in research on brain development and how children learn, and what difference pre-kindergarten can make in children's learning in the short and long run. Committee staff will provide background information for committee members prior to the site visit.

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## **Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Joint Task Force on Basic Education Definition and Funding**

**Completion Date:** December 2008

**Staff:** Bryon Moore/Susan Mielke/ Kim Cushing

**Reference:** E2SSB 5627 (2007)

**Description:** In the 2007 legislative session, a joint task force comprised of legislators and others was created to review the definition of basic education and the current funding formulas and propose a new definition and options for a new funding structure. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) will provide research support to the task force with assistance from legislative committee staff, the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the legislative evaluation and accountability program and the office of financial management. The first report is due to the task force by September 1, 2007 and must include a plan of action. The second report is due by December 1, 2007 and must include two to four options for allocating school employee compensation. The final report is due September 15, 2008 and must include two to four options for revising the remaining K-12 funding structure. Committee staff provide assistance and will draft legislation as necessary.

September and November Committee Assembly: Work session with presentation by the Institute on the progress of the task force.

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**Project: Other Legislative Workgroups, Task Forces, Councils and Advisory Committees**

**Completion Date:** December 1, 2007

**Staff:** Susan Mielke/Kim Cushing/Bryon Moore/Paula Moore

**Reference:** 2SHB 1573, 2SHB 1980, 2SHB 5093, E2SSB 5828, ESSB 6023, Capital Budget proviso (Sec. 6016) (2007)

**Description:** The Legislature created or extended six other legislative task forces, councils and study groups addressing education issues on which legislators are members: The dropout prevention, intervention, and school health reform, the early learning advisory council; the career and technical education advisory committee; and the joint legislative task force on K-12 school construction. Additionally, the Washington Learns committee, established two years ago intends to continue its work and to hold public meetings. Lastly, in May 2007, Governor Chris Gregoire created a P-20 council by executive order to hold state government accountable and measure progress toward ten long-term goals for a world-class education system, established by the Washington Learns committee.

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## **Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project:**           **Financial Literacy**

**Completion Date:** Ongoing

**Staff:** Diane Smith

**Reference:**       HB 1980 (2007)

Legislation continues the public/private partnership for financial literacy.

**Description:**    Financial literacy is the achievement of skills and knowledge necessary to make informed judgments and effective decisions regarding earning, spending, and the management of money and credit. The committee held a workshop on this issue during the 2007 session.

In 2004 the Legislature created the Financial Literacy Public-Private Partnership (Partnership) consisting of legislators, representatives from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Financial Institutions, financial services representatives, and educators. The Partnership is charged with identifying important financial literacy skills and knowledge for public school students. In addition, the Partnership is to consider strategies, including instructional materials, assessment measures, and professional development, to increase financial literacy of public school students.

In the 2007 session, \$50,000 was appropriated to the Partnership. The Partnership is to issue an interim report in June of 2007. A final report date is set for June 30, 2009. The date for the completion of activities by, and expiration of, the Partnership is extended to June 30, 2009.

Senate staff will monitor the work of the Board, provide assistance as needed and draft legislation as requested by members.

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**Project:**           **Insurance Conference**

**Completion Date:** July 19-22, 2007

**Staff:** Diane Smith

**Description:**    The insurance industry is regulated at both the state and federal levels. In the 2007 session, two major bills (SSB 5715 and SSB 5717) adopted the approach of model legislation promulgated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Other legislation (SB 5042) brought existing NAIC statutory references up-to-date.

The National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) is having its summer meeting this year in Seattle. While NCOIL and NAIC are separate bodies, they collaborate on many issues. Several issues that were discussed in the 2007 session will be part of this conference. These issues include the NAIC securities valuation office; subprime lending developments; title insurance; payday lending activity; the Life Settlements Model Act; property-casualty insurance (natural disaster) and proposed state Guaranty Fund Model Act; state-federal relations and the NCOIL-NAIC dialog (interstate regulation) and NAIC accreditation.

Senate staff will monitor the issues of interest to committee members and bring the insights and education from the conference to bear in crafting legislation at members' request.

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## **Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project:**            **NAIC's Role in Washington Law**

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff:** Diane Smith

**Reference:**        ESSB 5717

**Description:**    Legislation in 2007 requires that the Insurance Commissioner report to the legislature about the role played by the NAIC in Washington law. The report is required after rules are adopted to implement the legislation. The NAIC is an association, not a federal legislative entity. While delegation to federal legislation is always an issue in its own right, the issue of the extent to which the laws of Washington delegate legislative authority to this association was raised in the debate on this legislation.

The rule making required by the legislation involves extended public hearings on proposed language for administrative rules adopted under the legislation's authority. Staff will attend these rule making hearings in order to observe the debate on delegation, if any. This background understanding will facilitate accurate assumptions for members' legislative requests.

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**Project:**            **Washington State Investment Board**

**Completion Date:** Ongoing

**Staff:** Diane Smith

**Description:**    The Washington State Investment Board (WSIB) invests the pension funds of the state of Washington, with a portfolio of about \$74 billion. Legislation that directs funds' investment with the WSIB is within the committee's usual jurisdiction. As an example in 2007, the investment authority for scholarships administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) was transferred from the State Treasurer to the WSIB. (Reference: SSB 5039).

The committee also recommended confirmation of four WSIB members in 2007, the positions of two of whom were never before confirmed by the Senate. These two WSIB memberships are not gubernatorial appointments, but rather are appointed by Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Ongoing attendance at the meetings of the WSIB offers insight into the investment policies the WSIB makes and implements. Senate staff will monitor the work of the Board, provide assistance as needed and draft legislation as requested by members.

Ongoing attendance at the meetings of the WSIB offers insight into the investment policies the WSIB makes and implements. Senate staff will monitor the work of the Board, provide assistance as needed and draft legislation as requested by members.

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## **Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Election Law Review**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Brandon Roche/Mac Nicholson

Description: In the election law realm, one often encounters competing public policies. For instance, some counties assign unique numbers or bar codes to ballots, allowing more efficient administration of the election and giving citizens the opportunity to see where their ballot is in the counting process. However, these same bar codes also create a link between the voter and his or her choices, betraying, or threatening to betray, the voter's secrecy. A comprehensive analysis of competing policies in election laws would be very relevant, with specific attention to several issues that arose during the 2007 Legislative Session.

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**Project: Federal Development of Emergency Planning for Rescuing Pets**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Description: Legislation was introduced in the 2007 Session that would have required local governments to include plans for addressing the needs of individuals with household and service pets in their respective emergency management plans. Federal law is currently being developed to address these concerns, and committee staff will track and report on the development of federal law.

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**Project: Grave and Cemetery Protection**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Mac Nicholson/Sharon Swanson

Description: Funding was provided in the operating budget to fund a study about the issues surrounding the discovery of human remains, both Indian and non-Indian. The study will be conducted jointly by the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation and the Governor's Office. Committee staff will track the study and participate where appropriate, as the desired outcome of the study is legislation for the 2008 Session.

---

**Project: Local Control Elections**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Sharon Swanson/Mac Nicholson

Description: Also known as publicly financed elections, committee staff will examine and report on the use of publicly financed elections in other states and compare statistics regarding the percentage of incumbents re-elected, the number of races with challengers, the number of candidates per race, the average amount of money spent on campaigns, and similar statistics. The report will also investigate the sources of funding used for publicly funded campaigns.

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**Project: Public Records Exemptions**

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Sharon Swanson/Mac Nicholson

Description: Legislation passed in 2007 created the Public Records Accountability Committee. The committee includes four legislative members and will examine statutory exemptions to public disclosure and make recommendations regarding the continued existence of the exemptions. The committee will be staffed by the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Financial Management; however, committee staff will track the work of the committee.

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## **Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

Project: **Ruckelshaus Study of Critical Areas and Agriculture Land**

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Mac Nicholson

Description: Legislation passed in 2007 requires the Ruckelshaus Center to study the conflicts between critical areas' ordinances and agricultural activities. Committee staff will track the study.

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Project: **Study of Local Government Statutes**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Mac Nicholson

Description: Examine code city and non-code city statutes to see if the distinction between the two is necessary. Examine local government statutes for outdated authority with respect to special purpose districts.

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## **Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Blue Ribbon Commission Legislative Reports and Activities**

Completion Date: December 30, 2007

Staff: Mich'l Needham

Reference: E2SSB 5930, E2SHB 1569 (2007)

Description: 2007 legislation capturing the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access directed implementation of new programs and studies on a range of health reform efforts. The committee will monitor the projects, and staff may participate in research efforts that are interdependent, such as: research efforts on reinsurance and risk adjustment options for the individual market, high risk pool, and small group market, WSHIP eligibility, and design of the newly created Health Insurance Partnership; and development efforts for a Quality Forum, state health planning functions, a prescription monitoring program, and health technology investments.

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**Project: Comprehensive School Health**

Completion Date: October 1, 2008

Staff: Rhoda Donkin

Reference: 2SSB 5093 (2007)

Description: Legislation in 2007 established the Select Interim Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform. The task force was formed to address conditions in school environments that impact childrens' health. Part of the motivation for considering school health is to promote strategies that prevent childhood obesity. The task force will address improving school nutrition, increasing daily exercise, decreasing environmental hazards on campuses, adding school nurses, to name a few. Staff will participate in identifying key components of comprehensive health and drafting task force recommendations before October 1, 2008.

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**Project: Health Profession Discipline**

Completion Date: January 1, 2008

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: SHB 1300, 2SSB 5509, E2SHB 1103 (2007)

Description: Legislators introduced bills during the 2006 and 2007 legislative sessions addressing concerns about quality assurance and discipline of health professionals. Bill subjects included licensing standards, agency disciplinary authority and process, sanctions, background checks, discipline by other jurisdictions, and disclosure. Committee staff will identify additional options for improving health care quality assurance procedures and draft legislation as appropriate.

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**Project: Long-Term Care Financing**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Rhoda Donkin

Reference: 2SHB 1220 (Chap. 275 - 2005); 2SHB 2284 (2007)

Description: The 2007 Legislative session extended the term of the existing Long Term Care Task Force on Financing and Chronic Care Management, adding a workgroup to evaluate and make recommendations on training standards for long-term care workers. Both the task force and the workgroups on training must submit recommendations to the Legislature by the end of 2007. The Task Force will focus on recommendations that have already been drafted in preliminary form, and the work group will generate specific recommendations related to worker training standards in long term care settings. Staff will participate in developing final recommendations for both groups.

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## **Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Registered Counselors**

Completion Date: November 15, 2007

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: SHB 1128, HB 1993 (2007)

Description: A variety of bills were considered during the 2007 legislative session, addressing regulation of those individuals registered with the department of health as counselors. The department of Health is to convene a work group to develop recommendations (due November 15, 2007) and will draft credentialing guidelines (due January 1, 2008) for registered counselors based on the work group's recommendations. Credentialing guidelines will include education in risk assessment, ethics, professional standards and deadlines for compliance. Staff will monitor progress of the work group, development of the credentialing guidelines, and additional concerns raised by legislators and stakeholders during the legislative session. These concerns include client safety, professional discipline, educational requirements and disclosure.

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### **Other Projects:**

**Project: Joint Legislative Workgroup on "Fair Share" and Health Care for Low-Wage Employees**

Completion Date: December 1, 2007

Staff: Mich'l Needham

Reference: SHB 1128, HB 2094 (2007)

Description: The 2007 budget bill created a workgroup with 12 Legislators (6 Senators) and others to consult on the development of a report and recommendations related to coverage of low-wage workers enrolled on state health programs who are employed by employers with more than fifty employees. The Department of Social and Health Service will consult with the Health Care Authority and Employment Security. The discussion include the goal of shared responsibility for coverage of low-wage workers, obstacles to implementation and options to address them, and estimated implementation costs. The report is due November 15, 2007.

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## **Senate Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Campus Security**

Completion Date: Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Review institutional responses to violent acts on campuses; identify prevalent issues and themes; develop and draft legislation as needed.

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**Project: Higher Education Coordinating Board's Strategic Master Plan**

Completion Date: Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Monitor the Higher Education Coordinating Board's progress on their formula for the Strategic Master Plan for higher education. The 2008 revised plan must be approved by the Legislature. Draft legislation as needed.

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**Project: Tuition Policy Study**

Completion Date: December 2007 Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Study the relationship between tuition waivers, tuition, and scholarships, considering issues including: the relationship to system and mission goals; the balance and conflict among modern economy market forces, and demographic factors.

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**Project: Workforce Training Plans**

Completion Date: Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Monitor the State Board for Community and Technical College's workforce training plans.

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### **Other Projects:**

**Project: Education of Students in High Demand Fields**

Completion Date: December 2007 Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Reference: SSB 5731 (2007)

Description: Provide staff support to the Senators serving on the Committee on the Education of Students in High Demand Fields. Report on their activity as they develop a plan and a marketing project to increase capacity of the system and motivate students to enter such fields. Draft legislation as necessary.

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## **Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project:** Department of Corrections' Implementation of Legislation Aimed at Reducing Offender Recidivism

**Completion Date:** Ongoing

**Staff:** Shani Bauer

**Reference:** ESSB 6157 (2007)

**Description:** This legislation requires the Department of Corrections to carry out a number of actions aimed at reducing offender recidivism.

Senate staff will monitor the Department of Corrections' implementation of the recent legislation aimed at reducing offender recidivism.

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### **Other Projects:**

**Project:** Community Custody and Community Supervision

**Completion Date:** November 1, 2007

**Staff:** Shani Bauer

**Reference:** ESSB 6157 (2007)

**Description:** A legislative task force is created to review laws related to community custody and community supervision. The task force must recommend changes to allow the Department of Corrections and community corrections officers to more easily identify the statutory requirements of an offender's sentence and term of community custody or supervision.

Senate staff will monitor the work of the task force; provide assistance, as needed; and draft legislation, as requested by members.

---

**Project:** Examination of Racial Disparity in Child Welfare System and Advisory Committee Report

**Completion Date:** June 1, 2008

**Staff:** Kiki Keizer

**Reference:** SHB 1472 (2007)

**Description:** An advisory committee convened by the Department of Social and Health Services must collaborate with the Washington Institute for Public Policy and other entities to develop a methodology to analyze data in the context of determining whether racial bias exists in the child welfare system. The advisory committee must then analyze the data and produce a report and recommendations.

Senate staff will monitor the work of the advisory committee; provide assistance as needed; and draft legislation, as requested by members.

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## **Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Child Support Guidelines Work Group**

Completion Date: December 30, 2008

Staff: Shani Bauer

Reference: 2SHB 1009 (2007)

Description: In 2005, the Division of Child Support (DCS) convened a Child Support Guidelines Work Group at the request of the Governor to comply with federal law. The work group did not reach consensus recommendations on all of the issues for review. This bill requires DCS to continue the work of reviewing the guidelines and present its recommendations to the Legislature by December 30, 2008.

Senate staff will monitor the work of the work group.

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**Project: Foster Parent Classification Work Group**

Completion Date: January 1, 2008

Staff: Kiki Keizer

Reference: ESHB 1624 (2007)

Description: A work group must be convened by the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services and the Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Washington to study the necessity and feasibility of creating tiered classifications for foster parent licensing, including a professional foster parent classification. A report and recommendations are due to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2008.

Senate staff will monitor the work of the work group.

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**Project: Marital Dissolution Task Force**

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff: Kevin Black

Reference: 2SSB 5470 (2007)

Description: A task force convened and supported by the Washington Supreme Court must establish statewide protocols for marital dissolution cases. The report and recommendations of the task force are due December 1, 2008.

Senate staff will monitor the work of the task force and draft legislation, as requested by members.

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## **Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Consideration of Repeal Limitation In Antidiscrimination Law, RCW 49.60**

Completion Date: November 2007

Staff: Lidia Mori/Dawn Noel

Description: Consideration of repeal of the limitation in the definition of "employer" in Washington law against discrimination, RCW 49.60.040(3).

The statute defines an "employer" as including "any person acting in the interest of an employer, directly or indirectly, who employs eight or more persons..." Washington's law against discrimination therefore does not apply to employers who employ less than eight persons. Interested parties will examine the possibility of repealing this limitation and discuss the desirability of requiring potential plaintiffs to exhaust all remedies provided through the Human Rights Commission prior to initiating a lawsuit. Consideration will also be given to the benefits of a major educational campaign to assist small employers in understanding their new obligations, before the effective date of the expanded jurisdiction.

---

**Project: Gang Violence Workgroup**

Completion Date: January 2008

Staff: Dawn Noel

Reference: SB 5987 (2007)

Description: The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is directed to establish and convene a work group, including legislators, to evaluate the problem of gang related crime in Washington State.

The workgroup will evaluate and make recommendations regarding additional legislative measures to combat gang-related crime, the creation of a statewide gang information database, possible reforms to the juvenile justice system for gang-related juvenile offenses, best practices for prevention and intervention of youth gang membership, and the adoption of legislation authorizing a civil anti-gang injunction. Results of the evaluation will be reported to the Legislature by January 1, 2008.

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**Project: Ignition Interlocks, Impoundment, Revocation of Motor Vehicle Registration, and Towing in Driving Under The Influence (DUI) Situations**

Completion Date: October 2007

Staff: Lidia Mori

Description: Ignition Interlocks, impoundment, revocation of motor vehicle registration, and towing in driving under the influence (DUI) situations.

People who have been convicted of (DUI) are restricted to driving vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock device for varying lengths of time. SB 6113, introduced during the 2007 legislative session, expanded the requirements pertaining to ignition interlock usage and the penalties for violating those requirements. A small work group will examine the changes encompassed in SB 6113 and provide input as to the best way to accomplish the purpose of SB 6113. Input will be sought from the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Washington Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, and the Department of Licensing.

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## **Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Should a Website be Considered a Place of Public Accommodation?**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Dawn Noel

**Description:** Litigation has occurred on the issue of whether a website should be a place of public accommodation for persons with disabilities under federal law. This litigation concerned whether website providers should make their websites technologically accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities can install programs on their computers that enable them to access the information on a website (by having a program that reads aloud the website content, for example, in the case of persons who are blind), but the website must be compatible with the technology for it to be accessible. An issue has arisen as to whether Washington law should incorporate such a requirement. Staff is currently conducting preliminary research on the issue for Senator Kline. Depending on whether Senator Kline wanted to pursue this issue, staff would review what other states have done at legislative and implementation stages, and report on the success and/or challenges other states have encountered. Staff could also provide legislative drafting support as needed.

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**Project: Wrongful Death - What are the Laws of Other States?**

Completion Date: October 2007

Staff: Dawn Noel

**Description:** At common law, there was no right of recovery for a person's wrongful death, and person's cause of action did not survive the person's death. The Legislature has provided for such actions through four interrelated statutes relating to wrongful death and survival actions: (1) general wrongful death statute; (2) child death statute; (3) general survival statute; and (4) special survival statute. Wrongful death statutes provide a new cause of action on behalf of specified beneficiaries for damages they suffer as a result of the decedent's death. In contrast, survival actions do not create a new cause of action; rather, they allow for the continuation of any causes of actions that the decedent could have brought had he or she survived.

This project will include a review of the process and procedures related to the wrongful death and survival statutes of other states.

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## **Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Regulation**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Jennifer Strus/Kathy Buchli

Reference: SHB 1876 (2007)

Description: During the 2007 session, extensive work was done on SHB 1876 by a large group of stakeholders, assisted by the Department of Labor & Industries. There have been various bills dealing with the regulation of the HVAC/R industry introduced in the past several sessions as well. In 2005, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee recommended that the HVAC/R industry be regulated. The committee will continue to work with the stakeholders to craft legislation for the 2008 session.

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**Project: Registration Requirements for Plumbing Contractors**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Ingrid Mungia/Jennifer Strus

Reference: SB 5491 (2007)

Description: During the 2007 session, the committee heard SB 5491. This bill would have created additional registration requirements for plumbers. Although the bill did not pass out of committee, the committee agreed to continue working on the legislation in preparation for the 2008 session.

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**Project: Unemployment Insurance (UI) Issues**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Reference: ESSB 6885 (2006) SB 5999 (2007)

Description: During the 2006 session, the Legislature passed ESSB 6885. The central feature of the bill was an agreement to "pay at 2 and charge at 4." In other words, the amount of UI benefits paid to claimants is based on his or her two highest quarters of earnings, and employers pay taxes based on a full year of wages for laid off workers, and what those benefits would have been for those lower average earnings. The Washington Retail Association wrote a letter to the federal Department of Labor arguing that this law was out of conformity with federal law. Initial indications from DOL are that they agree that the law is out of conformity. The committee will continue to monitor this situation and provide assistance as necessary.

Concerned about the growing UI trust fund, ESD was asked by the committee to analyze the proposal contained in SB 5999 and develop recommendations for implementing the bill or develop other proposals to achieve the goal of maintaining approximately 11 to 13 months of benefits in the trust fund. The committee will monitor ESD's progress in this regard.

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**Project: Workgroup on the Health Coverage of Low Wage Workers**

Completion Date: November 2007

Staff: Kathy Buchli

Reference: ESHB 1128 (2007)

Description: The Department of Social and Health Services, the Health Care Authority and the Employment Security Department are to establish a workgroup consisting of twelve legislators and a number of other participants representing various stakeholders. The workgroup is to prepare and submit a report and recommendations to the Governor and the legislature related to the coverage of low-wage workers enrolled on state plans who are employed by employers with more than 50 employees. The report is to be submitted on or before November 15, 2007. Committee staff will attend the workgroup meetings and monitor the group's progress.

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## **Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

### **Other Projects:**

**Project: Joint legislative Task Force on Family Leave Insurance**

Completion Date: January 2008

Staff: Jennifer Strus/Ingrid Mungia

Reference: E2SSB 5659 (2007)

Description: The bill creates a joint legislative task force consisting six legislative members, four nonlegislative members and one member appointed by the Governor. Both the Department of Labor & Industries and the Employment Security Department (ESD) cooperate with the task force. Staff support for the task force is provided jointly by House and Senate committee staff. The task force is to study the establishment of a family leave insurance program including the manner in which the benefits and the administrative costs should be financed; the manner in which the program should be implemented and administered; and any government efficiencies that should be adopted to improve program administration; the impacts, if any, of the family leave insurance program on the unemployment insurance system. The task force is to report its findings and recommendations as well as proposed legislation to the legislature by January 1, 2008.

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**Project: Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Washington State Construction Industry**

Completion Date: January 2008

Staff: Kathy Buchli

Reference: SB 5926 (2007)

Description: The bill creates a joint legislative task force consisting four legislative members, and eight nonlegislative members representing various interests in the construction industry. The Department of Labor & Industries, the Employment Security Department and the Department of Revenue must cooperate with the task force. Staff support for the task force is provided jointly by House and Senate Committee staff. The task force is to formulate a state policy to establish cohesion and transparency between state agencies so as to increase the oversight and regulation of the underground economy practices in the construction industry. The task force is to contract with the Institute for Public Policy to assist it in achieving this goal as to determine the extent of and projected costs to the state and workers of the underground economy in the construction industry. The task force is to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2008.

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**Project: Tied House Workgroup**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Description: As a result of the recommendations made by the Three Tier Task Force last year, the Liquor Control Board agreed to convene a committee to review the statutes and policies relating to tied house issues and make recommendations to the legislature for changes, if necessary. The work group has been meeting since January 2007 and hopes to conclude its work by August 2007. Staff is to monitor the work group's work. Once the work group concludes, there may be one or more committee hearings held jointly with the House Commerce and Labor Committee to consider the recommendations.

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## **Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Aquatic Invasive Species: Early Detection & Rapid Response Plan Adoption**

**Completion Date:** Staff: Kim Johnson

**Reference:** E2SSB 5923 (2007)

**Description:** In the 2007 session, the Legislature passed E2SSB 5923 regarding aquatic invasive species. The bill added some elements to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan that is part of the agency's aquatic invasive species prevention program. The additional elements include the agency's plan for addressing the treatment and immediate response to the introduction to Washington waters of aquatic invasive species. Agency and public review of the plan must be conducted under chapter 43.21C RCW, the state environmental policy act. If the implementation measures or actions will have a probable significant adverse environmental impact, a detailed environmental impact statement must be prepared on the plan. Staff will monitor DFW's development and adoption of the Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection & Rapid Response Plan and the implementation of the other provisions of the legislation.

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**Project: Forest Health Regulatory System**

**Completion Date:** Staff: Curt Gavigan/Sherry McNamara

**Reference:** SSB 6141 (2006)

**Description:** The Legislature passed SSB 6141 during the 2006 session, which designated the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as the state lead in developing a comprehensive forest health program for the state. SSB 6141 created a three tier system to address forest health concerns, authorizing DNR to: (1) work with landowners to protect forest health through voluntary land management activities; (2) issue hazard warnings accompanied by recommended landowner actions to manage forest health threats; and (3) issue hazard orders accompanied by required landowner actions to manage more severe forest health problems that arise. In light of SSB 6141 and other recent legislation before the committee, committee staff will monitor emerging forest health and fire issues as well as the implementation and development of DNR's comprehensive forest health program.

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**Project: Ocean Policy Implementation**

**Completion Date:** November 2007 Staff: Kim Johnson

**Description:** In light of the recommendations of two federal blue-ribbon commissions – the Pew Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy - the Committee has been active during the past biennia on issues concerning ocean policy. The 2005 Legislature provided funding for the Governor's Office to establish the Washington State Ocean Policy Work Group to identify the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy appropriate for immediate implementation. In December of 2006 the Ocean Policy Work Group provided a final report, entitled Washington's Ocean Action Plan, Enhancing Management of Washington State's Ocean and Outer Coasts. The Action Plan summarized the condition of the state's ocean resources and made recommendations to improve coordination among state agencies and other jurisdictions, and measures to protect and manage ocean resources. Staff will survey state agencies with the authority and responsibility to implement Washington's Ocean Action Plan, as recommended by the Ocean Policy Work Group in their final report, and summarize any findings.

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## **Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Aviation Planning Council**

Completion Date: January 1, 2008

Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: ESHB 1094 (2007)

Description: The transportation budget provided funding to the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to support the work of the Aviation Planning Council. The Council was established in 2005 and required a phased in long-term study of the state's aviation needs, both general aviation and commercial aviation. The final stage of the study includes the convening of a Governor appointed Aviation Planning Council, tasked with the following duties: (1) review WSDOT's statewide facilities & market analysis studies, (2) make recommendations regarding how to meet statewide aviation needs, and (3) make recommendations regarding where to place future commercial & general aviation airport facilities. Committee staff will monitor the work of the Council and assist with drafting legislation as directed.

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**Project: Border Crossing Cards**

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Dory Nicpon

Reference: ESHB 1094, Section 212(3) (appropriating funds for the implementation of ESHB 1289) (2007)

Description: As authorized by ESHB 1289, the Department of Licensing (DOL) will develop an enhanced driver's license and identicard to facilitate crossing the border between Washington and British Columbia. Committee staff will monitor and review the implementation of ESHB 1289.

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**Project: Central Puget Sound Regional Transportation Governance**

Completion Date: January 1, 2008

Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: ESHB 1094 (2007)

Description: The transportation budget provided funding to the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) for an analysis of implementation options regarding transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region. The JTC will continue examining the policy, legal, and technical issues surrounding the restructuring of the planning, funding, and operating functions of the various transportation agencies in the region. Committee staff will monitor the work of the JTC and assist with drafting legislation as directed.

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**Project: Commercial Vehicle Safety**

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Dory Nicpon

Reference: ESHB 1094, Section 208(4) and Section 212(6) (both appropriating funds for the implementation of SHB 1304) (2007)

Description: As directed by SHB 1304, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Department of Licensing (DOL) will develop and implement new rules designed to enhance commercial motor vehicle safety. Committee staff will monitor and review the implementation of SHB 1304.

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## **Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project:                   Coordinated Special Needs Transportation Services**

Completion Date: December 15, 2008

Staff: Michael Groesch

Reference:           ESHB 1094, Section 205(3) (appropriating funds for the implementation of SHB 1694) (2007)

Description:       The joint transportation committee shall conduct a study and review the legal and programmatic changes and best practices necessary for effective coordination of transportation services at the regional level for persons with special transportation needs. The study will be a comprehensive review of barriers and opportunities for special needs transportation with comparison to other states' approaches to coordinated transportation.

Committee staff will participate in consultant selection, workplan development and monitor and review the implementation of ESHB 1694.

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**Project:                   Development of Rail Benefit/Impact Evaluation Methodology**

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Dory Nicpon

Reference:           ESHB 1094, Section 309(7) (2007)

Description:       The Washington State Department of Transportation is directed to develop and implement the benefit/impact evaluation methodology recommended in the statewide rail capacity and needs study finalized in December 2006. The methodology is to be developed in collaboration with a stakeholder work group. Committee staff will monitor and review the development and implementation of the benefit/impact evaluation methodology.

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**Project:                   Freight Congestion Relief Study**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: David Ward

Reference:           SSB 5207 and ESHB 1094, Section 205 (2007)

Description:       With Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) members and stakeholders, committee staff will participate in a study of funding mechanisms to fund freight infrastructure improvements. The study will evaluate the imposition of a fee on the processing of shipping containers, port-related user fees, and other funding mechanisms to improve freight corridors by identifying a revenue stream to fund state highway and rail investments from the freight relief account. Staff will provide support to the JTC, participate in contractor oversight, and draft legislation as directed.

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## **Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Ferry System Study**

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Janice Baumgardt

Reference: ESHB 1094, Sections 205 (1), 206 (1), and 225 (4) (2007)

Description: Committee staff will participate in the TC review of; the ferry system ridership demand forecast; capital cost allocation plan methodology; the life cycle cost model, and; administrative, maintenance and preservation costs. These studies will lead to JTC recommendations regarding capital financing strategies for consideration in the 2009 legislative session and future vessel acquisitions.

Additionally, committee staff will support the JTC participation in the Transportation Commission's survey of ferry customers; Washington State Ferries' reestablishment of vehicle level of service standards and the WSF's development of pricing policy proposals, operational strategies, terminal design standards, and long-range capital plan. Initial progress will be reported December 2007.

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**Project: Project Delivery Oversight**

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Hayley Gamble/Dory Nicpon/David Ward/Janice Baumgardt

Reference: ESHB 1094, Sections 214, 224, Sections 305 to 309 & Section 603 (2007)

Description: Committee staff will work with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), House Staff & Office of Financial Management staff to develop common report formats and data elements as required in ESHB 1094 to monitor transportation projects and programs authorized in the budget. Also, staff will ensure that data elements that are currently being provided will be available through new systems being developed by WSDOT and the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee.

Cost changes that occur during the interim to certain projects will require OFM and legislative staff review in accordance with the OFM oversight requirements and program flexibility provided in Section 603.

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**Project: Streamline Vehicle Title and Registration Statutes**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: David Ward/Janice Baumgardt

Reference: ESHB 1094, Section 212 (8) (2007)

Description: With the Washington State Department of Licensing (WSDOL), develop a proposal to streamline title and registration statutes to specifically address apparent conflicts, fee distribution, and other recommendations by the department that are revenue neutral and do not change legislative policy. Committee staff will provide support as appropriate, and assist with drafting legislation as directed.

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## **Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project:** **Transportation Capital Budget and Fund Balance System Development**

**Completion Date:** On-going **Staff:** David Ward/Hayley Gamble/Michael Groesch

**Reference:** ESHB 1094, Section 107(2) (2007)

**Description:** Committee staff will work with LEAP, OFM, WSDOT and the House Transportation Committee staff on the development of a new transportation capital budgeting and fund balance application. The new budgeting system development effort will provide comprehensive schematic diagrams of the current and proposed transportation capital budget process, information flows, and data exchanges; common, agreed-upon data definitions and business rules; detailed transportation capital budget data and system requirements; and a strategy for implementation, including associated costs and a timeframe.

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## **Senate Water, Energy & Technology Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Reclaimed Water**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Jan Odano/Curt Gavigan

Reference: ESSB 6117 (2007)

Description: ESSB 6117 established several task forces that include identifying and recommending actions to increase the promotion of reclaimed water and recommending long-term dedicated funding to construct reclaimed water facilities. The Department of Ecology (DOE) is required to submit a report by January 1, 2008.

The Governor vetoed the section of the bill that required DOE to convene and staff a task force to address the state's water reuse program including water rights impairment issues. However, in her veto message, the Governor directed DOE to work with legislative leadership to address these issues and provide a report to the Legislature by December 31, 2007. Committee staff will monitor the task forces, provide support as appropriate, and assist with drafting any legislation as directed.

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**Project: Climate Change**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: William Bridges

Reference: E2SHB 1303, ESSB 6001 (2007); Executive Order 07-02

Description: On February 7, 2007, the Governor issued an executive order establishing goals for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, for increasing clean energy sector jobs, and for reducing expenditures on imported fuel. The executive order is referenced in E2SHB 1303 (2007) and its goals are statutorily established in ESSB 6001 (2007).

The Governor's executive order directs the Department of Ecology (DOE) and the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED) to lead a stakeholder process that will consider a full range of policies and strategies to achieve the goals. Accordingly, DOE and CTED have formed the Washington Climate Advisory Team (CAT) to help develop recommendations to achieve the goals. The recommendations are due by January 2008. Committee staff will monitor the work of CAT, provide support as appropriate, and assist with drafting any legislation as directed.

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**Project: Puget Sound Partnership**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Sam Thompson

Reference: ESSB 5372 (2007)

Description: ESSB 5372 created a new state agency, the Puget Sound Partnership, to oversee restoration of Puget Sound by 2020. While the Partnership's initial restoration plan is not due to be completed until September 2008, the Partnership may propose legislation before then, in the 2008 legislative session, to address gaps in ESSB 5372. Committee staff will monitor the Partnership's work, provide support as appropriate, and assist in drafting any legislation as directed.

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## **Senate Water, Energy & Technology Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Wood Smoke Reduction**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Jan Odano

Reference: SHB 2261 (2007)

Description: SHB 2261 requires the Department of Ecology (DOE) to convene and chair a work group to study the impacts of wood smoke from wood burning stoves. DOE must make recommendations by December 1, 2007, on practical and cost-effective ways to reduce exposure to wood smoke and to meet the new national air quality standards. Staff will monitor the work group and assist with drafting any legislation as directed.

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### **Other Projects:**

**Project: Regional Electric Transmission Task Force**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: William Bridges

Reference: HB 1038 (2007)

Description: HB 1038 established a task force to negotiate the terms of a regional, interstate compact creating a process for siting national interest electric transmission corridors under the National Energy Policy Act of 2005. Task force members include the chair and ranking minority members of the Senate and House energy committees, or their designees.

The task force must negotiate the terms of the compact through processes established and supported by the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER). The task force must report its preliminary recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2008.

Committee staff will provide support to the task force and assist with drafting any legislation as directed.

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## **Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: 2008 Citizen's Guide to the Budget**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Ways and Means & LEAP

Description: For the last several years, the Senate Ways and Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) staff have published a Citizen's Guide to the Budget. Members, legislative staff, and the general public use the guide to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. The Guide is published on an annual basis because of significant changes in supplemental budget sessions. The Guide will be updated before the 2008 Legislative Session.

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**Project: Advisory Committee on Racial Disproportionality and Disparity in Washington's Child Welfare System**

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Paula Moore

Reference: SHB 1472 (2007)

Description: The Department of Social and Health Services will convene an advisory committee to address racial disproportionality and disparity in Washington's child welfare system. The Committee must examine and analyze the level of involvement of children of color in the state's child welfare system; the outcomes for children in the existing system; and the impact of poverty and family structure.

The committee must report the initial results of its analysis to DSHS by June 1, 2007. DSHS is to report and propose a remediation plan to reduce and eliminate disproportionality or disparity to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2008. An annual report must be provided to the Legislature regarding implementation of the remediation plan, beginning January 1, 2010 through January 1, 2013.

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**Project: Analyze 2008 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget Requests**

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff: Ways and Means

Description: In the fall, state agencies will submit to the Office of Financial Management supplemental budget requests for the current biennium. State law provides that a copy of each agency budget be provided concurrently to the legislative fiscal committees. These requests will provide valuable information in developing the Senate's version of the 2008 supplemental operating and capital budgets.

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**Project: Department of Social and Health Services - Medical Assistance Program - Study**

Completion Date: December 1, 2007

Staff: Elaine Deschamps

Reference: SHB 1128 (2007)

Description: Study to determine the financial impact associated with continuing to cover brand name medications versus the same medication in its generic form.

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## **Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Joint Task Force on Basic Education Definition and Funding**

Completion Date: Dec.15, 2008

Staff: Susan Mielke, Kim Cushing, and  
Bryon Moore

Reference: E2SSB 5627

Description: In the 2007 legislative session, a joint task force comprised of legislators and others was created to review the definition of basic education and the current funding formulas and propose a new definition and options for a new funding structure. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) will provide research support to the task force with assistance from legislative committee staff, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program, and the Office of Financial Management. The first report is due to the task force by September 15, 2007 and must include a plan of action. The second report is due by December 1, 2007 and must include two to four options for allocating school employee compensation. The final report is due September 15, 2008 and must include two to four options for revising the remaining K-12 funding structure. Senate Committee Services will provide assistance and will draft legislation as necessary.

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**Project: Legislative Budget Notes**

Completion Date: September 2007

Staff: SCS/OPR/LEAP Staff

Description: Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work with Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee (LEAP) staff to prepare the "Legislative Budget Notes", a publication which represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. The Legislative Budget Notes are used by legislators, legislative staff, state agencies and the general public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major budget documents.

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**Project: Legislative Study Committee on Public Infrastructure Programs and Funding Structures**

Completion Date: January 1, 2008

Staff: Brian Sims

Reference: ESHB 1092, Section 6026 (2007)

Description: The study committee includes ten members: two members from each caucus of the Senate and House, one member from the Office of Financial Management, and one member from Community Trade and Economic Development. The study committee is directed to recommend a comprehensive funding structure for infrastructure programs that will integrate, consolidate and standardize the many existing programs. No added funding is provided for the study.

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**Project: Update of Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance**

Completion Date: December 31, 2007

Staff: Bryon Moore, Susan Mielke and Kim  
Cushing

Description: Early Learning and K-12 Education and Ways and Means Committee staff will update the Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance. This document serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The document focuses on frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance.

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## **Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2007**

**Project: Joint Task Force on School Construction Funding**

**Completion Date:** December 1, 2007

**Staff:** Bryon Moore and Brian Sims

**Reference:** ESHB 1092, Sec. 6016 (2007)

**Description:** The Joint Task Force on School Construction Funding (JTFSCF), includes eight legislators (two from each caucus of the Senate and House) and at least two members representing school districts. The JTFSCF is directed to evaluate a variety of issues around current K-12 capital spending and funding. Senate Committee Services staff and House Office of Program Research staff will provide staff support. The final report is required to be submitted to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by December 1, 2007.

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### **Other Projects:**

**Project: Joint Legislative Task Force on Long-Term Care Residential Facility Payment Systems**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff:** Chelsea Buchanan

**Reference:** SHB 1128 (2007)

**Description:** The Joint Legislative Task Force on Long-Term Care Residential Facility Payment Systems, comprised of eight legislators, will review and develop recommendations related to payment methodologies for the care of medicaid-eligible residents of nursing homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes in Washington state.

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